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(*b*) whether representations have been made to him during his visit to the district to extend the benefit of this system to the rest of the taluks also; and

(*c*) what action Government have taken in this matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The question of extending the experimental scheme of free distribution of quinine to the other taluks in the district is under consideration.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know if Government have got a sufficient supply of quinine and whether there is any other difficulty in extending the free supply of quinine to the rest of the taluks also?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—"It is not a question of Government not having a sufficient supply of quinine. The question is the cost of free distribution of the substance."

Water-supply scheme of the Tuticorin Municipality.

* 510 *Q.*—Mr. M. D. T. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Tuticorin Municipality has been collecting a heavy tax from the year 1915 for a protected scheme of water-supply to the town;

(*b*) whether the works pertaining to the scheme finally sanctioned by the Government in 1926 are still pending completion;

(*c*) whether the Government have investigated into the delay in the execution of the works and what steps have been or are proposed to be taken to complete the works without further delay; and

(*d*) when the Government expect the works to be completed and handed over to the municipality?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 529.

Agriculture

Correspondence with the Secretary of State for sanction to appoint an I.C.S. officer as Director of Agriculture.

* 511 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have addressed the Central Government and the Secretary of State for India for permission to appoint a civilian as permanent Director of Agriculture; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons that impelled the Government to overlook the claims of the men in the Agricultural department?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The question of a permanent successor to Mr. Hilson is still under the consideration of Government.

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Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know from the hon. the Second Minister the special reasons for the delay in filling up the appointment? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" The matter is still under consideration. The reply is there on the paper."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" Has the Government addressed the Government of India or the Secretary of State for permission to appoint a civilian to the post of Director of Agriculture? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I am not in a position to say more than what is put on the paper."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" Is not the hon. Minister in a position to say whether or not he has addressed any such communication to the Government of India or the Secretary of State? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I have already replied to it."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" What is his reply to the question whether a communication to that effect has or has not been sent to the Government of India or the Secretary of State? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I am not in a position to reply to the question."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" Is the information confidential? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" Yes, until orders are passed. The matter is now under consideration."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" With reference to the question on the same subject put by me on the 5th August last, the Council Secretary to my hon. Friend asked for notice. Now that notice has been given, I should like to know whether any such communication has been sent or not? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I am not aware of any notice having been given."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I ask whether the hon. Minister denies that any such communication was sent to the Government of India or the Secretary of State? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I have already answered that, Sir."

Delay in filling the post of the Director of Agriculture.

* 512 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state why there is delay in the appointment of a permanent successor to Mr. Hilson, the late Director of Agriculture?

A.—Because the Government are considering the question.